

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01

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R 221645Z JUL 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1779

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MTN GENEVA 5866

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: MTN GROUP AGRICULTURE -- DID EC REQUEST A JULY MEETING
OR NOT?

REF: (A) MTN GENEVA 5005; (B) MTN GENEVA 5107; (C) EC BRUSSELS 6310

1. FOLLOWING REPORT IS "FOR THE RECORD" IN EVENT A PRO-
CEDURAL SQUABBLE BETWEEN U.S. AND EC DELS IN PAST SEVERAL
DAYS IS FANNED INTO SOMETHING BIGGER. IMMINENT START OF
VACATION PERIOD AND RECESS OF MTN FORMAL MEETINGS WILL
HOPEFULLY MINIMIZE THIS.

2. DURING NTM PARENT GROUP MEETING THIS WEEK EC SPOKESMAN
(ABBOTT) ATTEMPTED TO SHIFT SOME OF THE ONUS FOR BLOCKING
SEVERAL PROPOSALS ONTO AUSTRALIAN AND U.S. DELEGATIONS BY
SUGGESTING THESE PROBLEMS COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IF OTHERS
HAD NOT DECLINED TO HAVE A MEETING OF GROUP AGRICULTURE.
AT FINAL SESSION OF NTM GROUP JULY 21, AUSTRALIAN DEL
RESPONDED TO THIS BY SAYING HE WAS UNAWARE THERE HAD BEEN
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ANY PROPOSAL TO CONVENE GROUP AGRICULTURE. U.S. REP (NEWKIRK)

(UNDER INSTRUCTIONS) SAID HE TOO WAS UNAWARE OF SUCH A PROPOSAL.

3. MATTER PROBABLY WOULD HAVE ENDED ON THIS INSIGNIFICANT NOTE BECAUSE ALL NTM DELEGATIONS HAVE BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO PROCEDURAL DISAGREEMENTS WHENEVER THE WORD AGRICULTURE IS MENTIONED IN SOME OTHER GROUP OR SUBGROUP. HOWEVER, WHEN ABBOTT REPORTED RESULTS OF MEETING TO HEAD OF EC DEL (LUYTEN) INCLUDING STATEMENTS BY AUSTRALIA AND U.S. PARA 2 ABOVE, LUYTEN EXPLODED -- FIRST WITHIN HIS OWN DELEGATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY IN A SUCCESSION OF CALLS TO NEWKIRK, KOENIG, CULBERT AND AMBASSADOR WALKER.

4. LUYTEN ACCUSES US OF BAD FAITH IN DISCLAIMING ANY KNOWLEDGE OF EC PROPOSAL THAT GROUP AGRICULTURE SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONVENED BEFORE SUMMER BREAK SINCE HE HAD GIVEN US A WRITTEN STATEMENT ON JUNE 25 CONFIRMING EC DESIRE FOR A MEETING OF GROUP AG IN JULY (TEXT REF A). WE REMINDED LUYTEN THAT PATTERSON HAD CONVENED AN INFORMAL MEETING OF KEY DELS ON JUNE 29 TO SORT OUT WHERE EVERYONE STOOD ON QUESTION OF CONVENING GROUP AG, THAT PATTERSON BEGAN THAT MEETING WITH OBSERVATION THAT HE AS CHAIRMAN HAD NOT BEEN REQUESTED TO CONVENE GROUP AG, AND EC (LUYTEN) DID NOT DO SO AT JUNE 29 MEETING BUT INSTEAD SIMPLY SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE "NORMAL FOR GROUP AG TO MEET. (THIS MEETING WAS REPORTED IN REF B IN SOME DETAIL.) WE ALSO TOLD LUYTEN IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING, BASED ON REPORTS FROM USEC, THAT EC POSITION HAD CHANGED BETWEEN JUNE 25 AND JUNE 29, THAT EC IN FACT DID NOT WANT GROUP AG TO MEET (REF C). FINALLY, WE TOLD LUYTEN THAT

IF HIS COMPLAINT WAS THAT NEWKIRK SHOULD HAVE SAID WE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ANY FORMAL REEPEAT FORMAL PROPOSAL FOR A GROUP AG MEETING, HE WAS SPLITTING HAIRS.

5. LUYTEN TOOK NOTE OF WHAT WE SAID BUT CONTINUED TO ASSERT (A) WE SHOULD NOT HAVE ACCUSED EC IN A FORMAL MEETING (NTM PARENT GROUP) OF NEVER HAVING PROPOSED A MEETING OF GROUP AG WHEN WE KNEW EC HAD IN FACT DONE SO ON JUNE 25 AND IN WRITING, (B) THIS INCIDENT WOULD HAVE "SERIOUS" (BUT UNSPECIFIED) CONSEQUENCES AND (C) IT WOULD SERVE AS "AN IMPORTANT LESSON" TO THE PEOPLE IN BRUSSELS.
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6. COMMENT: THIS MURKY DISCUSSION IS A FITTING SEQUEL TO THE CONFUSION WHICH SURROUNDED EC POSITION IN JUNE ON WHETHER OR NOT TO CALL FOR A GROUP AGRICULTURE MEETING. AS BEST WE CAN SORT IT OUT, LUYTEN IS BEING SUBJECTED TO CONFLICTING PRESSURES WITHIN THE COMMISSION (AND PERHAPS BY THE MEMBER STATES) ON THE QUESTION OF CALLING A MEETING. HE THEREFORE, WANTS TO BE ABLE TO PLAY IT BOTH WAYS - I.E., TO

CLAIM CREDIT FOR HAVING PROPOSED A MEETING (AND THUS POINT
FINGER AT U.S. AND OTHERS) BUT TO AVOID HAVING SUCH A
MEETING BY NOT ACTUALLY REQUESTING THAT ONE IN FACT BE HELD.
ALSO HIS OUTBURST IS PROBABLY ATTRIBUTABLE IN PART TO THE
FACT THAT U.S. INTERVENTION WAS IN SUPPORT OF AUSTRALIA. EC
IS ABSOLUTELY FURIOUS AT AUSTRALIANS FOR THEIR AGGRESSIVE
ASSAULT IN RECENT MEETINGS ON VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF CAP. WITH
USUAL EC PARANOIA THEY MAY WELL BELIEVE WE ARE PUTTING
AUSTRALIA UP TO ALL THIS MISCHIEF. IN ANY EVENT, OUR
SUPPORT FOR AUSTRALIA APPEARED PROTECTIVE. HOPEFULLY AUGUST
RECESS WILL COOL PASSIONS A BIT, BUT QUESTION OF GROUP
AGRICULTURE MEETING CERTAIN TO ARISE AGAIN EARLY IN FALL AND
THIS DISPLAY MAY BE AN OMINOUS HARBINGER OF THINGS TO COME.
END COMMENT. WALKER

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